

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 08441 101500Z

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1683

INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 8441

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, OAU, KE, SL, ILO

SUBJECT: PERMANENT SECRETARY OF LABOR MINISTRY DISCUSSES
INTERNATIONAL LABOR MATTERS

REF: STATE A-3791, STATE 192236

1. NEW POST LABOR REPORTING OFFICER TOOK OPPORTUNITY
PRESENTED BY INITIAL CALL ON MINLAB PERMANENT SECRETARY
J. I. OTHIENO TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY MATTERS OF PROPOSED
NON-ALIGNED SPONSORED WORLD TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON
DEVELOPMENT (STATE A-3791) AND WITHDRAWAL OF SIERRA
LEONE LABOR CONGRESS FROM ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN TRADE
UNION UNITY (STATE 192236).

2. OTHIENO CHARACTERIZED YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL IN GENEVA
RE CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT AS A PURELY POLITICAL
MANEUVER DEVOID OF PRACTICAL CONTENT. HE SAID IT WAS
NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE KENYAN DELEGATION OR BY
OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GROUP OF 77 WITH WHOM
HE HAD CONVERSED PERSONALLY. AT SUCH TIME AS A
SERIOUS PROPOSAL IS ADVANCED ALONG THIS GENERAL LINE,
HOWEVER, KENYA WOULD BE PREPARED TO STUDY IT. WITH
RESPECT TO FORMATION OF BOTH LABOR AND EMPLOYER GROUPS
OF THE 77, OTHIENO MERELY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN
DISCUSSIONS ALONG THESE LINES IN GENEVA.

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3. OTHIENO WAS UNAWARE OF PURPORTED DECISION BY SIERRA

LEONE LABOR CONGRESS (SLLC) TO WITHDRAW FROM ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY (OATUU). HOWEVER,
IN ENSUING DISCUSSION HE EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT
FOR ARTICLE 8 OF OATUU CHARTER AS FUNDAMENTAL TO
ORGANIZATION'S EXISTENCE. HE DID NOT SHARE SLLC CONCERN
THAT THIS ARTICLE MIGHT LEAD TO DEMANDS THAT
INDIVIDUAL UNIONS DISAFFILIATE FROM INTERNATIONAL
TRADE SECRETARIATS.
MARSHALL

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